

HOUSE BILL NO. 698

INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE LAWS RELATING TO TRANSITION MONEY PROVIDED TO INMATES UPON DISCHARGE, PAROLE, OR CONDITIONAL RELEASE; AND AMENDING SECTION 53-30-111, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 53-30-111, MCA, is amended to read:

"53-30-111. Clothing and money furnished on discharge or parole -- rules. (1) The state prison shall furnish suitable clothing to a discharged or paroled inmate. An inmate discharged and delivered to the custody of the federal government or another state must receive \$5. All other discharged or paroled inmates may receive "gate money" in an amount up to \$100.

(2) (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2)(b), an inmate who is discharged, paroled, or conditionally released from a state prison or a community corrections facility or program may receive transition funds from the department of corrections, as provided by department rules. An inmate may apply for transition funds under this subsection (2)(a) prior to discharge, parole, or conditional release. The transition funds must be used to pay for essential goods and services for an inmate, including but not limited to food, clothing, rent or a housing deposit, utilities, treatment services, work-related tools or equipment, or transportation.

(b) The department of corrections shall adopt rules for disbursement to a discharged, paroled, or conditionally released inmate of transition funds in an amount of not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000. The rules must provide for the administration of the transition funds. For those inmates who are discharged subject to continuing state supervision, the department of corrections may disburse transition funds through the institutional probation and parole officer at the state prison from which the person is released or through a field supervising probation and parole officer. For those inmates who are discharged from a state prison without continuing state supervision, the inmate shall apply for transition funds through the institutional probation and parole officer. For those inmates who are discharged from a facility or program other than a state prison without continuing state supervision, the inmate shall apply for transition funds through the probation officer liaison or the probation and parole officer as applicable.

